

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15269 241749Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-06

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5894

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PLOS, EFIS, UK

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION PROPOSALS ON COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

FISHERIES POLICY: BRITISH REACTION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9332

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PAGE 02 LONDON 15269 241749Z

1. BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS REACTED SHARPLY TO EC

COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN COMMON FISHERIES POLICY. FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES DESCRIBED COMMISSION PACKAGE AS "EXTRAORDINARILY DISAPPOINTING," EVEN THOUGH IT CONTAINED SOME PLUSES. THE LATTER INCLUDE AGREEMENT ON 200-MILE LIMIT FROM JANUARY 1, 1977, GENERAL EMPHASIS ON CONSERVATION, PROVISIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT AND CERTAIN QUOTA REFERENCES. IN FCO STATEMENT TO PRESS LATE SEPTEMBER 23, RESULTS OF COMMISSION'S DELIBERATIONS WERE DESCRIBED AS "MIXED." FCO SAID "SUGGESTIONS FOR COASTAL ARRANGEMENTS FALL FAR SHORT OF THE NEEDS OF THE UK AND ARE WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE." PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER NEGOTIATIONS PENDING WITH THIRD COUNTRIES SUCH AS ICELAND ON FISHING LIMITS. FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND IS EXPECTED TO PUSH HARD FOR URGENT ACTION ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING OCTOBER 18-19.

2. BRITISH FISHING INDUSTRY REACTED EVEN MORE STRONGLY. AUSTEN LAING, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BRITISH FISHING FEDERATION, CALLED EC PROPOSALS DEPLORABLE AND SAID HIS ORGANIZATION WAS VERY ANGRY ABOUT THEM. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE COMMISSION HAS BADLY UNDERESTIMATED, OR CHOSEN TO IGNORE, THE STRENGTH OF FEELING AMONG THE COUNTRY'S 15,000 FISHERMEN. HE ALSO EXPRESSED ANGER AT THE REJECTION OF VARIABLE EXCLUSIVE BANDS OUT TO A 50-MILE LIMIT AND REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED DISCUSSIONS OF RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ICELAND AND NORWAY, WITH WHICH THE FEDERATION DOES NOT AGREE, AND WITH RUSSIA, WITH WHICH THE FEDERATION MOST VEHEMENTLY DISAGREES, AS "THE FINAL INSULT."

3. IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND, WHERE FISHERMEN ARE ALREADY PROTESTING OVER COMMUNIST BLOC MACKEREL FISHING JUST OUTSIDE THE 12-MILE LIMIT, FISHERMEN WERE DESCRIBED AS FURIOUS AT YESTERDAY'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE 50-MILE LIMIT. THE LEADER OF THE WEST COUNTRY FISHERMEN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE EC PROPOSALS WOULD MEAN A FREE-FOR-ALL WHICH IN THREE YEARS WOULD WIPE OUT THE ONLY HEALTHY FISH STOCK THE UK HAS LEFT. FURTHER NORTH, THE FLEET-WOOD FISHING OWNERS ASSOCIATION CALLED THE SUGGESTIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LONDON 15269 241749Z

COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE, AND IN ABERDEEN THE EC PACKAGE WAS DESCRIBED AS A "KICK IN THE TEETH." POINTED REFERENCES ARE ALREADY BEING MADE IN THE SCOTTISH PRESS TO LAST YEAR'S PROTEST OVER LOW-COST COD IMPORTS WHICH RESULTED IN AN EXTENSIVE PORT BLOCKADE.

ARMSTRONG

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